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# alzheimer's association™

Good morning Senator Prague, Representative Serra, and distinguished members of the Select Committee on Aging. My name is Heather Sandler and I am a graduate student at UCONN's School of Social Work, and an intern at the Alzheimer's Association of Connecticut as well as a Helpline volunteer.

I am here today to testify in support of **Raised Bill No. 452, An Act Concerning Funding For Adult Day Care Centers**

The Alzheimer's Association is a donor supported, non-profit organization serving the needs of families, health care professionals, and those individuals who are affected with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Association provides information and resources, support groups, education and training, and a 24 hour, 7 Day a week Helpline.

Currently in Connecticut there are approximately 70,000 residents living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias with over 112,000 caregivers. Statistics indicate seven out of every ten individuals with Alzheimer's are cared for at home. Adult Day Care services provide individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their families a more cost effective alternative to community based care. The average cost of a personal care attendant is \$13.80 an hour (gross) or \$552.00 for five days of care. In comparison it is approximately \$320 for five days of Adult Day Care.

As a Helpline volunteer at the Alzheimer's Association when I mention the possibility of Adult Day Care for a loved one it is a welcome option. When the families are calling about help and needing to keep their family member engaged and active they ask about Adult Day Care first. In many cases it is a chance for the caregiver to have some time to themselves, and take care of everyday tasks which can be challenging with the Alzheimer's person in the home all day.

The Alzheimer's Association supports increasing the rate of payment to Adult Day Care Centers and ensuring the Adult Day Centers remain a viable option for persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias and their families.



CONNECTICUT  
ASSISTED LIVING  
ASSOCIATION

**CALA Testimony on Senate Bill 453 – An Act Concerning Financial Assistance to the state's Assisted Living Pilot Projects**

The following shall constitute written testimony regarding Senate Bill 453 An Act Concerning Financial Assistance to the state's Assisted Living Pilot Projects from the Connecticut Assisted Living Association (CALA).

CALA is a statewide organization that represents the owners and operators of some 100 managed residential communities offering assisted living services to Connecticut's elderly.

As you are aware, this bill very simply seeks to change the total number (from 75 to 150) of individuals in Connecticut who may be eligible to receive Assisted Living services under the Medicaid waiver portion of the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly established under statute section 17b-342.

CALA supports this measure from the perspective that increasing the number of Connecticut's frail elderly who may be eligible for the program to 150 appropriately allows the initiative to continue to be considered a pilot program. One of the obvious benefits of a pilot is that the program remains a manageable size relative to any needed modifications or revisions in implementation.

Finally, this legislative proposal advances the notion that supports and services such as medication management, opportunities for socialization, and the provision of proper nutrition provided to older adults in the Assisted Living setting allows residents to continue to live in a residential, non-institutional environment that fosters personal dignity, choice and independence.

CALA remains available to work with committee members as this bill evolves.

Thank you for your consideration.